

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 /074 W

----- 034482

R 050930Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3240

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRTORIA

AMCONSUL CUPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV PINT AO

SUBJECT: AGOSTINHO NETO ARRIVES IN LUANDA

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. MPLA PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO ARRIVED IN LUANDA FROM LUSAKA AT 1:30 P.M. ON FEBRUARY FOUR ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND AN MPLA DELEGATION. A VERY LARGE CROWD WAS ON HAND TO GREET HIM. MPLA HAD WORKED HARD TO GET A MASSIVE TURNOUT, BUT FELL SHORT OF THEIR GOAL, DUE IN PART TO THE TENSIONS CAUSED BY THE OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE ON FEBRUARY THREE.

2. NETO GAVE A SHORT ADDRESS AT THE AIRPORT AND THEN WENT ON TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PALACE FOR LUNCH, AFTER WHICH HE GREETED SPECIALLY INVITED DIGNITARIES ASSEMBLED IN THE AUDITORIUM. BECAUSE OF THE LAST MINUTE VERBAL INVITATIONS FROM MPLA, VERY FEW PEOPLE SHOWED UP FOR THE GREETING. ADDITIONALLY, A NUMBER

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OF CONSULS GENERAL REFUSED TO ATTEND. ON HAND WERE THE AMERICAN

AND BRITISH CONSULS GENERAL, A YUGOSLAVIAN DELEGATION LEFT OVER FROM THE INSTALLATION OF TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND A BUNCH OF RUMANIANS THAT MATERIALIZED IN THE AUDITORIUM. DR NETO TOOK THE CHEERS OF A CROWD IN FRONT OF THE PALACE AND THEF SAID A FEW WORDS TO THE ASSEMBLED DIGNITARIES IN WHICH HE WELCOMED ANGOLA'S COMING INDEPENDENCE AND A CHANCE AT LAST FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE. HE MADE PLAIN THAT HE WILL TAKE A HAND IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. AS HE PUT IT, HE WILL OFFER "ADVICE AND COUNSEL" ON KEY ISSUES. (AS THE MPLA MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL, LOPO DE NASCIMENTO, IS A RELATIVELY JUNIOR MEMBER OF THE MPLA HIERARCHY, I IMAGINE DR NETO WILL BE RUNNING THE MPLA END OF THE GOVERNMENT.) DR NETO ALSO SAID HE WILL DO ALL IN HIS POWER TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND HARMONY AMONG THE LIBERATION GROUPS.

3. UPON LEAVING THE PALACE, DR NETO WENT TO A RALLY AT A STADIUM. THE CROWD WAS LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC AND WARMED TO NETO'S RHETORIC. HE IS NOT AN IMPRESSIVE SPEAKER - HIS VOICE HAS A PECULIAR QUALITY AND CONSTANTLY BREAKS INTO FALSETTO DURING ORATIONS, BUT HE DOES NOT SEEM TO MIND AND PLOWS AHEAD. HE HAS GOOD PRESENCE AND A FLAIR FOR INTRODUCING HUMOROUS ASIDES.

4. I TALKED BRIEFLY WITH MRS NETO, WHO SAID HER THREE CHILDREN, TWO TEENAGERS AND A PRE-TEEN, ARE IN SCHOOL IN TANZANIA WHERE THEY WILL REMAIN FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
KILLORAN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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